

MCPS Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes January 6, 2013

Present:

- Carl Thornblade MD (Asthma & Allergy) and parent
- Don Whalen, Paramedic and manager of Missoula Emergency Services
- Heather C. Davis Schmidt, MCPS Executive Regional Director, Region 3
- Joseph Knapp MD (cardiology), MCPS school board member, parent
- Julie Jenkins, Rattlesnake Elementary School secretary
- Sarah Towle, community member, grandmother
- Virginia J. Haines; MCPS Special education coordinator
- Linda Simon RN, MCPS Health Services Supervisor

Not able to attend:

- Carol Cady MD (Asthma and Allergy)

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions were made all around.
2. Linda explained the purpose of this meeting. Montana passed legislation last July allowing school districts to obtain “stock” epinephrine devices but also requiring development of applicable policies and procedures to do that. The school board was updated on this last summer and raised concerns. The board directed the district to convene an advisory committee to examine the issues and to make recommendations to the board re: adopting the policy of having “stock” epinephrine devices. This is the committee charged with making that advisement. The format will be to meet tonight and then meet again in February for a final decision after reviewing any needed information.
3. Dr. Thornblade presented a short power point presentation about anaphylaxis including the definition, prevalence and treatment. The presentation included what the mean time anaphylaxis develops with food, venom or medications, what the mean time of antihistamine sufficient effect is on hives, the number of chemical mediators involved with anaphylaxis and the limitations of antihistamines.
4. Linda showed EpiPen and Avu-Q epinephrine auto injectors. She discussed the number of students with reported history of diagnosis of a life threatening allergy, reported history of anaphylactic symptoms without medical follow up, district history of epinephrine administration and anaphylaxis without epinephrine available.
5. Montana annotated Code 20-5-421 was reviewed.
6. Benefits, concerns and challenges were discussed. Benefits included little to no risk in administration of epinephrine, having universal access and availability to epinephrine and potential decreased cost for parents. (It was noted that the primary purpose of law is to respond to previously undiagnosed i.e. first time anaphylaxis.) Concerns included increased utilization of emergency services (911), that the staff may not use when use was indicated, field trip coverage, training of 1200 employees and substitutes, cost and sustainability, and the probability that increasing number of parents won’t provide their own child’s epinephrine which

may create issues with field trips. The major challenges noted was district wide but appropriate training congruent with the law and improving the response to medical incidents in each unique school environment.

7. Linda questioned what additional information was needed or what additional people should be involved or consulted. The group felt that information was sufficient and that all were comfortable now making the advisement to the school board; that each school should stock epinephrine devices, preferable two of each needed dosage for that particular student body, that the pharmacy offer that is currently available will fund this and that devices will not be "stocked" for field trips.
8. Heather, Ginny and Linda will meet on the set meeting date of February 13th 5pm to discuss policy and procedures prior to bringing to the school board. No further group meeting is needed as this committee has made its decision.